

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. This office action is in response to applicant's claims filed 4/30/08. Claims 1, 10-19, 23, 32-41, and 45 are currently pending and have been examined.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shant Tchakerian on 11/21/08. The Examiner notes, in the previous Examiner's amendment, dated 8/21/08, there was inadvertently entered line of correction. The purpose is to delete this information from the previous Examiner's amendment. The current Examiner's amendment addresses this issue and is found below.

In claim 45, line 27, delete "concept type of each of the input concept instances".

Response to Amendment

3. In response to the amendment filed 4/30/08, including amending claims 1, 23 and 45, without adding new matter, the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is deemed to be directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention patented in Namba et al. (Namba, US 5,884,249). Regarding claims 1, 23, and 45, the improvement comprising a concept definition request which does not overlap with any existing requests in accordance with a different concept instance rule defined in a concept definition for the concept type of the input concept instance, and an applicable request list generating step, of generating an applicable request list by generating **combinations each of which includes an applicable concept request** in the request information list and a corresponding concept instance in the plurality of input concept instances, and **excluding a combination** which does not satisfy the **surface request** in the request information list **and a combination** which **includes an applicable concept request competing with other requests from the generated combinations**, included in the request list.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAMONT M. SPOONER whose telephone number is (571)272-7613. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571/272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

lms
11/21/08

/Patrick N. Edouard/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626